

SMOKE SIGNALS

Volume 43/Number 9 February 2012



Administration Message

Dear Fellow Residents:

I will keep this message much shorter than last time. If you thought the January article about the property tax referendum was difficult to read, I assure you it was that difficult and perhaps even more so to write. Nevertheless, I saw it as my obligation to explain it in detail for everyone so that voters will be familiar with the ballot questions before walking in to the polling place. I will talk more about the referendum later. I have some good news to tell you about. We have received a donation from a resident to our police department, we have a new PZC member, our PACE bus route #669 will remain as is for now, and the Neighborhood Watch program is moving forward. And, YES the property tax referendum will be on the ballot in March.

Resident Donation

I am very pleased to report to you that resident **Desmond Roberts** of Advantage Chevrolet has donated a 2011 Impala to our police department. In this time of financial concern for our Village, a gift of this order is greatly appreciated. Not only does this help us financially but it also enhances our security by providing us with a reliable vehicle for our officers to use. On behalf of all our residents, Thank You Mr. Roberts!

PZC Appointment

In December, the Village Board confirmed my appointment of Acacia resident **Tim Kyzivat** to our Planning and Zoning Commission ("PZC"). Tim was appointed to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Denise Ingram who is moving away. Tim is a self-employed businessman and Certified Public Accountant. We welcome Tim to the PZC.

PACE Route #669

In January, I received notice that PACE planned to discontinue service south of Joliet Road on Route #669 to the METRA station in Western Springs. At the same time as announcing this decision, PACE allowed for input on this change to the service. Because I believe that having public transportation available in our town adds to our property values, I contacted PACE representatives and requested that they keep the service as is. The reason for this planned change was due to low ridership and the high level of subsidies that PACE spends to keep this route going. I offered to help publicize the need for our residents to make use of this public transportation benefit and PACE agreed to keep the Route intact as is with the service south of Joliet Road. I am aware that most of us likely do not need the bus service to the train but for those who can use it but do not, please review your situation

and take the bus if possible. It will keep the Route active and relieve you of the stress of driving.

Neighborhood Watch

The IHP Neighborhood Watch Oversight Council is working with representatives of the local organizations in establishing a comprehensive neighborhood watch program. Resident **Glen Mann** traveled to Washington D.C. in January to attend a National Sheriff's training program concerning neighborhood watch. We commend him on his initiative and appreciate his involvement in our community. By the way, if you have not seen it yet, you can check out our Police activity for 2011. Chief Alonzo has posted a listing of the various types of police activity occurring in our town and the number of occurrences for each in 2011 on our website at www.indianheadpark-il.gov.

The March Referendum

As stated in last month's edition of Smoke Signals, the Village Board has acted to address our revenue shortfall by placing a Referendum comprised of three questions on the ballot for the general primary election on March 20, 2012. It was not an easy decision to make but one the VBT believed obligated to place before the voters in order to address our residents' needs and requests for services and the cost of providing them. To re-cap, the VBT is requesting voter approval to raise an additional \$350,000 in revenue from property taxes. To accomplish this, voters must vote "Yes" on all three questions on the ballot. The money will be used in the following ways:

- **Increased Police protection (\$150,000);**
- **Repairs of Village streets (\$100,000);**
- **Funds for payment of the Village debt (\$100,000 per year).**

Last year (2011), when we paid our 2010 property taxes, a portion of the money that came to Indian Head Park included the \$110,000 payment we made for a 1997 street bond. That is paid off now. So, our taxes in 2012 (for tax year 2011) will decrease by \$110,000. The referendum, if passed, will mean that in 2013 we will collectively pay taxes to increase Village revenue by \$240,000 above the 2010 level that we have just paid.

Let me repeat. The referendum is asking for \$350,000 more revenue. If the referendum is approved, the result is an estimated net increase of \$240,000 above the level that our last year's property tax bills were based upon. This new amount will not be paid until the 2nd Installment in 2013 and received by the Village at that time. This means that the net

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increase to a homeowner of a house with a Fair Market Value of \$100,000 is estimated to be about \$43.30 (\$63.15 less \$19.85) above the level that was just paid in the fall of 2011. *This amount is before any exemptions are applied.* Exemptions such as the homeowner's exemption, senior exemption and senior freeze will still apply and may act to further re-

duce the amount of increase to some homeowners. Below is a chart that I hope will help you visualize how approval of this referendum may affect you. **Note: the amount printed below in bold is the estimated amount this will cost you above what you already had paid in 2011 before exemptions because the 1997 street bond has been paid off.**

Fair Market Value				Less 2011 decrease			*Before exemptions
\$100,000.00	house would translate into a	\$63.15	increase.*	\$19.85	equals	\$43.30	estimated net increase*
\$150,000.00	house would translate into a	\$94.72	increase.*	\$29.77	equals	\$64.95	estimated net increase*
\$200,000.00	house would translate into a	\$126.29	increase.*	\$39.69	equals	\$86.60	estimated net increase*
\$250,000.00	house would translate into a	\$157.86	increase.*	\$49.61	equals	\$108.25	estimated net increase*
\$300,000.00	house would translate into a	\$189.44	increase.*	\$59.54	equals	\$129.90	estimated net increase*
\$350,000.00	house would translate into a	\$221.01	increase.*	\$69.46	equals	\$151.55	estimated net increase*
\$400,000.00	house would translate into a	\$252.58	increase.*	\$79.38	equals	\$173.20	estimated net increase*
\$450,000.00	house would translate into a	\$284.15	increase.*	\$89.31	equals	\$194.85	estimated net increase*
\$500,000.00	house would translate into a	\$315.73	increase.*	\$99.23	equals	\$216.50	estimated net increase*
\$600,000.00	house would translate into a	\$378.87	increase.*	\$119.07	equals	\$259.80	estimated net increase*
\$700,000.00	house would translate into a	\$442.02	increase.*	\$138.92	equals	\$303.10	estimated net increase*
\$800,000.00	house would translate into a	\$505.16	increase.*	\$158.76	equals	\$346.40	estimated net increase*
\$900,000.00	house would translate into a	\$568.31	increase.*	\$178.61	equals	\$389.70	estimated net increase*
\$1,000,000.00	house would translate into a	\$631.45	increase.*	\$198.46	equals	\$432.99	estimated net increase*

As can be seen from this, the time lag involved between voter approval, implementation and receipt of the additional revenue makes this a significant and important issue to all residents and the future of Indian Head Park. The foregoing is intended to explain the facts of the referendum and how it will affect a homeowner. It is not to advocate for any choice. The decision belongs to the voters. Additional factual information

will be provided before the March 20, 2012 general primary election in future issues of the Smoke Signals.

Finally, we continue to work out the details for a memorial for Kelli Joy O'Laughlin. We hope to make an announcement about this at our March 8th VBT meeting.

Respectfully,
Richard S. Andrews, mayor

Scheduled Meeting Dates

Village Board of Trustees: 7:30 p.m.: Thursday, March 8, 2012 & Thursday, April 12, 2012

Planning and Zoning Commission: 7:30 p.m.: Tuesday, March 6, 2012

E-911 Board: 6:30 p.m.: Thursday, March 15, 2012

All meetings are held at the Municipal Facility at 201 Acacia Drive. All residents are welcomed!



Election Information

Please check your voter registration status at voterinfo.net on the Cook County Clerk's Office Website for any polling place changes that may have resulted due to Cook County redistricting. The Cook County Clerk's Office has listed the following polling place addresses according to precincts in Indian Head Park for those that will be voting on election day, March 20, 2012:

Precinct 73 – Votes at the Wilshire Green Clubhouse at 115 Acacia Drive, Indian Head Park.

Precinct 36 – Votes at the Pleasantdale Park District at 7425 Wolf Road, Burr Ridge.

Precinct 53 – Votes at the Pleasantdale Park District at 7425 Wolf Road, Burr Ridge.

Precinct 61 – Votes at The Acacia Association Clubhouse at 111 Acacia Drive.

Precinct 31 – Votes at the Village of Indian Head Park Municipal Facility at 201 Acacia Drive.

VILLAGE OF INDIAN HEAD PARK

201 Acacia Drive, Indian Head Park, IL 60525
(708) 246-3080
www.indianheadpark-il.gov

Office Hours

Mon., Tues., Wed. and Fri 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and
Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays

Mayor: Richard S. Andrews

Trustees: Deborah A. Anselmo Carol Coleman
Brian T. Bailey Norman L. Schnauffer
Anne Bermier Matthew P. Walsh II

Village Clerk: Joseph V. Consolo

Chief of Police/Administrator: Frank Alonzo, Jr.

Police Dept. Non-Emergency 246-4534
Emergency 9-1-1

Fire Dept. Non-Emergency 352-9229
Emergency 9-1-1

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WHERE ARE THE FLOWERS?

Now that the Heritage Center Library properly reflects
the pride and beauty of our village, can we all pitch in
to help fill its grounds with trees, plants, and flowers?

Please donate some perennials from your yard or just
one perennial plant or flat of flowers from a store.

We will do the work!

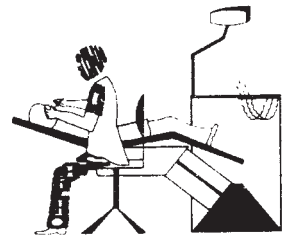
Are you able to donate an hour a week to water, plant,
or weed? No offer will be refused! Let's make the
Heritage Center the landmark of Indian Head Park.

Contact Susan Kiley for information:
(skiley@sbcglobal.net) or 708-606-2197

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TEEPEE TOPICS

GFWC Indian Head Park Woman's Club

The Indian Head Park Woman's Club cordially invites you to attend its fashion show and luncheon "An April Shower of Caring", on Sunday, April 15, 2012, At Edgewood Valley Country Club, 7500 W. Willow Springs Road. Net proceeds of the ticket sales will go to support the compassionate services of Adventist St. Thomas Hospice and Wellhouse of Hinsdale. Additional proceeds will be used for other philanthropic purposes such as the Military Family relief Fund, Hines VA Hospital and our LTHS scholarship. Fashions will be from Cleo's in LaGrange and musical entertainment by We II, Anita and Don Komar. We urge the support of our community members in a worthwhile endeavor that will also provide a fun afternoon with family and friends. Doors will open at 11:00 a.m. Tickets are \$40.00. Further information can be provided by Mary Ann Stang at (630) 789-9555 or (after March 5) by Irene Macke at (708) 246-5809.

Our condolences to the family and friends of John A. Murray, age 77, who passed away. John owned Murray's Partytime Supplies in Willowbrook, one of the first Halloween superstores. The store had many other themed items for every occasion year round including supplies that were provided to vendors for the Mardi Gras celebration in New Orleans each year. John's family started the Murray's Partytime family business in 1951 in LaGrange then after many years the store location was moved to Willowbrook when John took over the business in the mid 70's. Mr. Murray retired after closing his store in 2007. He was a history buff and avid collector of brewery memorabilia, he was a founder of the National Association of Breweriana Advertising, an organization dedicated to the study and preservation of American brewery advertising.

Our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Vivian Emmons, who passed away. Vivian was a long time resident of the Village. Our sympathies also to Tony and Lois Malcak residents of Indian Head Park who lost their son, Scott Malcak, who was 55 years old.

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